

LEVINE, BLASZAK, BLOCK & BOOTHBY

1300 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW

SUITE 500

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-1703

(202) 223-4980

FAX (202) 223-0833

RECEIVED

JAN 15 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

January 15, 1997

CC 96-263

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: CC Docket No. 96-292/94-1; 91-213; 96-263

Dear Mr. Caton:

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 1.46, enclosed please find an original and four copies of the Joint Motion for Extension of Time to File Comments on NPRM of the Ad Hoc Telecommunications Users Committee, the Bankers Clearing House, the New York Clearing House Association, Mastercard International, Inc., and Visa, U.S.A. Please date stamp the additional copy and return it with our messenger.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Kevin S. DiLallo

004

~~DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL~~

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

JAN 15 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

In the Matter of)	
)	
Access Charge Reform)	CC Docket No. 96-262
)	
Price Cap Performance Review)	CC Docket No. 94-1
for Local Exchange Carriers)	
)	
Transport Rate Structure)	CC Docket No. 91-213
and Pricing)	
)	
Usage of the Public Switched)	CC Docket No. 96-263
Network by Information Service)	
and Internet Access Providers)	

JOINT MOTION OF
THE AD HOC TELECOMMUNICATIONS USERS COMMITTEE
THE BANKERS CLEARING HOUSE
THE NEW YORK CLEARING HOUSE ASSOCIATION
MASTERCARD INTERNATIONAL INCORPORATED
AND VISA, U.S.A.
FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE COMMENTS ON NPRM

Pursuant to Section 1.46 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.46, the Ad Hoc Telecommunications Users Committee, Bankers Clearing House, New York Clearing House Association, MasterCard International Incorporated, and Visa, U.S.A. (collectively, "Movants"), submit this Joint Motion for an Extension of Time to file comments and reply comments on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the referenced proceeding, FCC 96-488 (released December 24, 1996) ("NPRM"). For the reasons set forth below, Movants respectfully request the Commission to extend the time for filing comments and reply comments on the NPRM for two weeks each.

Good cause exists for the grant of a short extension of time to prepare and file comments and reply comments. The NPRM raises a large number of challenging questions and significant public policy issues that require commenters to devote considerable time and attention to their submissions. Given the importance and complexity of the issues raised by the NPRM, interested parties should be given ample time to develop and present information and arguments that will be of the greatest value to the Commission. The public interest in a fully developed record would therefore be served by grant of the requested extension of time.

The need for additional time is made even more acute by the fact that parties with a significant stake in the outcome of this proceeding are already devoting substantial resources to related matters of comparable importance, including the petition for review of the Commission's Interconnection Order,¹ and the *Universal Service* proceeding,² in which comments and reply comments on the Joint Board's Recommended Decision were filed on December 19 and January 10, respectively.³ As a result of these other responsibilities, many interested parties, including some of the Movants, have been unable to allocate sufficient resources to the preparation of their submissions in this proceeding.

¹ *Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, CC Dkt. No. 96-98 (First Report and Order), 11 FCC Rcd 15499 (1996) ("*Local Competition*") (subsequent history omitted).

² *Iowa Utilities Board v. FCC*, Docket No. 96-3321 (and consol. cases) (8th Cir. filed October 3, 1996); *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Dkt. No. 96-45, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 96-93 (released March 8, 1996) ("*Universal Service*").

³ See Public Notice, DA 96-1891 (released November 18, 1996).

The public interest would be served by permitting such parties additional time.

The time period for preparing comments has effectively been reduced by the Christmas and New Year's holidays, during which businesses were closed for several days. The two-week extension requested here would essentially restore the time lost on account of the timing of the NPRM's release on Christmas Eve.

Grant of the requested extension of time would not compromise the Commission's ability to meet any statutory deadline, because no such deadline applies to this proceeding. We note that the issues raised here relate to issues raised in the *Local Competition* and *Universal Service* proceedings – which are subject to statutory deadlines. However, the Commission has already met its deadline for completing the *Local Competition* proceeding,⁴ and ample time remains for it to complete the *Universal Service* proceeding,⁵ even if it grants the two-week extension requested here.

In short, good cause exists for a two-week extension of time, and such relief would serve the public interest by allowing for a more fully developed record on access charge reform.

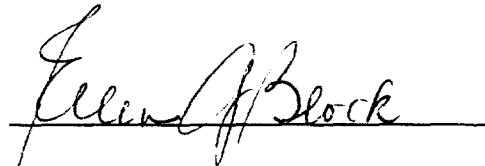
For the foregoing reasons, the Movants respectfully request that the Commission grant the requested extension of time and move the deadline for

⁴ Section 251(d)(1) of the 1996 Act required the Commission to complete the *Local Competition* proceeding by August 8, 1996.

⁵ Section 254(a)(2) of the 1996 Act requires the Commission to finalize its *Universal Service* rules by May 8, 1997.

filing comments to February 10, 1997, and the deadline for filing reply comments to February 27, 1997.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ellen G. Block", written over a horizontal line.

Ellen G. Block
Kevin DiLallo
Levine, Blaszak, Block & Boothby
1300 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 223-4980

Counsel for the Ad Hoc
Telecommunications Users Committee,
the Bankers Clearing House,
MasterCard International Incorporated,
the New York Clearinghouse
Association and VISA, U.S.A.

January 15, 1997

200.03/JtMotExtTime